



**JANUARY 2023**

## Upcoming Activities

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and its contractor, Severson Environmental Services (SES), will begin work to clean up soil contamination at the Unimatic Manufacturing Corp. Superfund site in January 2023. The cleanup is expected to last for approximately one year. USACE is overseeing SES on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



*Unimatic building at 25 Sherwood Lane*

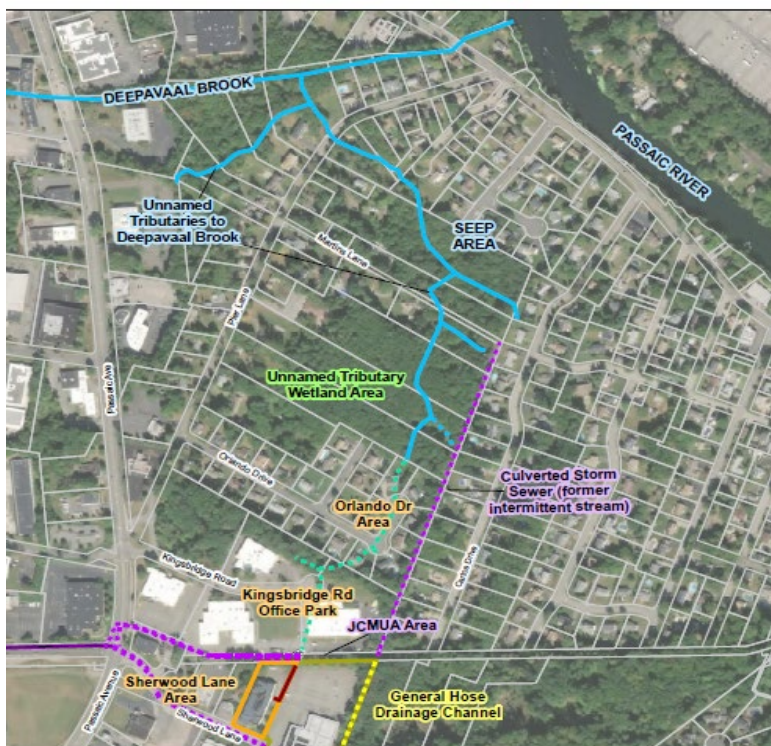
After preparing the Unimatic property for cleanup, SES will first demolish the Unimatic building at 25 Sherwood Lane in Fairfield, New Jersey. They will remove soil contaminated with polychlorinated bi-phenyls (PCBs) found on the Unimatic and neighboring properties before the contaminated material is disposed of at an EPA-approved facility off-site. This cleanup work is being done using funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

EPA approved a Health and Safety plan that includes protocols and procedures for air and noise monitoring, traffic control, and site security, which will be followed during cleanup activities. The health and safety of construction workers, business employees and nearby residents is of the highest priority for EPA, USACE and SES.

## What are Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)?

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) are a group of manmade chemicals that are oily in nature, yellow in color, and have no smell or taste. PCBs were used in electrical transformers. EPA banned the use of PCBs in 1979; however, they are still present in many pre-1979 products. If people are exposed to high levels of PCBs, it can result in liver damage, respiratory problems, and dermal lesions.

Learn more about PCBs from the [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry](https://www.epa.gov/toxic-substances-and-disease-registry).



*Figure 1: Unimatic Manufacturing Corp Superfund site*

## Past Activities

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Previous environmental investigations by EPA and the New Jersey Department Environmental Protection (NJDEP) indicated that historic manufacturing operations at Unimatic contaminated the building, soil, groundwater, and the sediment of nearby streams with PCBs.

In 2016, EPA issued its initial plan to clean up the building and soil contaminated with PCBs. The first phase of work is to demolish the Unimatic building and excavate and remove the contaminated soil and dispose of the soil and building debris off-site to an EPA-approved disposal facility.

EPA issued a final plan in September 2020 to clean up PCBs that migrated from the Unimatic site and contaminated the sediment of nearby streams, the Deepavaal Brook, other areas and the groundwater. The groundwater and sediment cleanup, as well ensuring the affected areas are restored, will continue as the second phase of work after the building is demolished and the contaminated soil and building debris are removed.

## Site Background

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The Unimatic site is in a primarily light industrial area with residential subdivisions located to the northeast (Figure 1). In addition, the site is bounded to the northwest by 21 Sherwood Lane, to the northeast by 30 Sherwood Lane, and to the north by the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority property (Figure 1). Between 1955 and 2001, Unimatic operated a die casting facility and used dies with molten aluminum and lubricant containing PCBs. Wastewater from the facility contaminated the on-site building, soil, and the groundwater, including the soil on the three adjacent properties. EPA placed the Unimatic Manufacturing Corporation site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List in May 2014.

## EPA Contact Information

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For information on general environmental concerns, please contact: George Zachos, **EPA Regional Public Liaison**, (732) 321-6621 or toll free at (888) 283-7626, [zachos.george@epa.gov](mailto:zachos.george@epa.gov)